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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Plans for Further Land Reforms

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

1. A SED Farmers' Conference was held in Halle on 19 and 20 February 1949. Selected guests from the CDU and the LDP were invited to the official functions on the first day of the convention. Only trusted members of the SED were admitted to the discussions on the second day.
2. Kurt Vieweg, the Chairman of the Farmers' Cooperative Union (Vereinigung der gegenseitigen Bauernhilfe - VdgB) and Ernst Goldenbaum, the Chairman of the Democratic Farmers' Party, spoke at the meetings on 20 February 1949. Among the subjects of discussion were the plans for a new land reform. It was stated that of the 745,000 farming units in the Eastern Zone of Germany, about 7,500 were in the category of large farms, between 50 and 100 hectares in size; the larger farms were expropriated in the land reform of 1946.
3. Walter Ulbricht emphasized that the Eastern Zone of Germany at the present time must create an impression of stability, and that any new overt land reform would be undesirable. He said that "the West" must be given no opportunity to charge that further expropriations are in progress in the Soviet Zone.
4. It was decided that the SED should appoint an agent to keep tabs on each of the large farms. At the same time efforts would be made to strengthen the VdgB in the communities, and village cooperatives would be empowered to control the distribution of agricultural machinery, seed, etc. These would form the nucleus of "kolkhozes". Then each large farm would be considered separately, and various excuses found for dispossessing the owners and turning them over to the local village cooperatives.

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